

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130374

FOL HAVANA 1229 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
BEIRUT MOGADISCIO MOSCOW PARIS BAGHDAD MAY 11, 1978 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 1229

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, MILI, ET, SO, CU

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN TIDBITS

1. ITALIAN EMBASSY, MAY 10, INDICATED THAT LOCAL PLO REPRESENTATIVE TOLD THEM LAST WEEK THAT GEORGE HABBASH HAD VISITED CUBA AT BEHEST OF THE THREE ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONTS TO ASK FIDEL CASTRO BOTH TO RECOGNIZE ERITREANS AS AN AUTHENTIC LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND TO SERVE AS AN INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN ERITREANS AND MENGISTU. PLO REPRESENTATIVE HAD NO INFORMATION ON SUBSTANCE OF CASTRO REPLY.

2. BRITISH EMBASSY, MAY 10, REPORTED THAT A STORY IS CIRCULATING IN BEIRUT TO EFFECT THAT CASTRO PROMISED HABBASH THAT CUBAN TROOPS WOULD NOT INTERVENE AGAINST ERITREANS.

3. ITALIAN EMBASSY, MAY 11, REPORTED THAT FRENCH COMMUNIST
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NIST PARTY POLITBURO MEMBERS ROLAND LEROY (DIRECTOR OF L'HUMANITE) AND GUY BESSE, NOW VISITING HAVANA, HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN OF EUROPEAN LEFTISTS TO HIGHEST LEVEL OF CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY OVER POSSIBLE CUBAN MILITARY INVOLVEMENT AGAINST WELL-RECOGNIZED ERITREAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. CUBANS REPORTEDLY HAVE REPLIED THAT THEY ARE AWARE OF THIS CONCERN AND THAT THEY DID NOT LIKE PORTION

OF MENGISTU'S APRIL 26 SPEECH IN WHICH ETHIOPIAN LEADER SOUGHT
TO TIE CUBA TO ETHIOPIA'S MILITARY EFFORT TO SUPPRESS ERITREAN
REBELLION. LANE UNQUOTE VANCE

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